



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

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MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION COMMISSION AUTHORIZES ACQUISITION AND LEASE OF 10,500 ACRES

Steps have been taken by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission to add approximately 10,500 acres to the national wildlife refuge system, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross L. Leffler announced today. Authorization was given for the purchase of 6,127 acres and for leasing 4,340 acres.

The largest addition will be to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in California where the leasing of 3,540 acres was approved.

The largest purchase authorization was at Monte Vista, Colorado, which is scheduled to get 2,582 additional acres. This includes excellent nesting grounds as well as water rights which will have considerable value in the general management plans of the refuge. Approval was also given for the leasing of 800 acres of land for this refuge.

The acquisition of 1,377 acres for the Martin National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland received Commission approval. This refuge was established in 1954 as the result of the gift of 2,482 acres of land from the late Glenn L. Martin of aircraft building fame.

A total of 855 acres will be acquired for Malheur Refuge in Oregon. This authorization represents two of the three remaining private tracts in the bed of old Lake Malheur.

Other acquisitions authorized include: Chase Lake, North Dakota--587 acres; Shiawassee, Michigan--86 acres; Columbia, Washington--78 acres; Quivira, Kansas--560 acres.

The Commission also considered but did not take final action relative to 386 acres for the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota. Representative Coya Knutson of Minnesota discussed with the Commission the importance of completing the acquisition of this refuge in accordance with the original plan.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission is composed of Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton, chairman; Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks, Senator John W. Bricker of Ohio, Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., of Missouri, Representative August H. Andresen of Minnesota, and Representative Frank M. Karsten of Missouri.

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